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PINE NEEDLE SCALE IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES

Balsam fir trees, infested by pine needle scale, *Chionaspis pinifoliae* (Fitch), were found in a Christmas tree shipment from Nova Scotia on arrival at Bermuda by local plant health authorities in late 1991. Even though only a few of the minute, white scales were found on any given tree, their presence resulted in the destruction of a portion of the shipment.

The distribution and host association of the scale insect became important issues as a consequence of this incident as it may affect the export of Christmas trees in the future. A search of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey databases was made for information regarding the insect in the Maritimes.

Pine needle scale is widespread in the Maritimes. It has been collected in all three provinces. Although it occurs mainly on pines and spruces, it has also been found on balsam fir. This may not bode well for the export of balsam fir Christmas trees into areas where plant quarantine regulations against it are in effect.

Results of the search are tabulated on the reverse side. The insect was found on balsam fir (bF - *Abies balsamea*); spruce (S - *Picea* sp.); white spruce (wS - *P. glauca*); black spruce (bS - *P. mariana*); Colorado spruce (cS - *P. pungens*); red spruce (rS - *P. rubens*); pine (P - *Pinus* sp.); red pine (rP - *P. resinosa*); white pine (wP - *P. strobus*); Scots pine (scP - *P. sylvestris*); jack pine (jP - *P. banksiana*); lodgepole pine (lP - *P. contorta* var. *latifolia*); and mugho pine (mP - *P. mugo*).

On balsam fir, the insect has been recorded from all three provinces: New Brunswick in 1973 (Northumberland Co.) and 1980 (Gloucester Co.); Nova Scotia in 1989 and 1990 (Queens Co.); and Prince Edward Island in 1954 (Kings Co.). Samples have been identified in the laboratory by G.R. Underwood, F.A. Titus, and G.A. Smith - all three qualified and well experienced in insect identification.

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May 1992

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Pine Needle Scale - *Chionaspis (Phenacaspis) pinifoliae* in the Maritime provinces

County	Total	Number of records on various hosts												
		bF	S	wS	bS	cS	rS	P	rP	wP	scP	jP	lP	mP
New Brunswick														
Restigouche	0													
Gloucester	9	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	-	-
Northumberland	15	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	11	-	-
Kent	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Westmorland	11	-	1	2	2	1	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
Albert	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
St. John	0													
Kings	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-
Queens	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Sunbury	6	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	-	-
Charlotte	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
York	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2	-	1
Carleton	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Victoria	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Madawaska	0													
Nova Scotia														
Cumberland	4	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Colchester	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Pictou	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Antigonish	4	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inverness	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Victoria	4	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cape Breton	0													
Richmond	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Guysborough	4	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Halifax	6	-	1	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lunenburg	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Queens	3	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Shelburne	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Yarmouth	0													
Digby	3	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Annapolis	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Kings	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-
Hants	5	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Prince Edward Island														
Prince	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Queens	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kings	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-